POOR ROBIN'S

PROPHECY,

OR, THE LAST

GREAT NEWS

FROM THE

STARS:

Foretelling the mighty Wonders that shall happen in the Year 1689, the like have not been seen or known.

Communicated in a LETTER to his Friend,

By *Poor Robin*, Student in *Astrology*.

With Allowance.

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LONDON,

Printed for the Author, 1688.

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20. Oct.

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GREAT NEWS
FROM THE
STARS:

Being moſt ſtrange

Predictions for the Year 1689, &c.

HAving always been a Well-wiſher to the Mathematicks, and a deep Student in the ſublime Art of Aſtrology; and being deſirous, as well as others, to know the future Events of things, I betook me to my Ephemerides, and erecting a Figure, found that many ſtrange Accidents would fall out within the compaſs of a Year; for *Mercury* being Lord, and predominant in the Houſe of Fortune, ſhews, that many Fools ſhall have full Coffers, whilſt wiſe Men walk up and down with empty Pockets; and that there will certainly be ſuch a ſwarm of Hypocrites, that if *Diogenes* were to ſearch with a Candle and Lanthorn, he would be hard put to it to find an honeſt Man in *White-Friars*, or the *Mint* in *Southwark*.

Seeing therefore the mighty Wonders that are likely to happen, I have, for the benefit of my Country-men, taken in hand to make Prognoſtication, diſcourſing briefly of the Sun and Moon, the Eclipſes of both, and the dangerous Effects that are like to follow, which if not prevented, will cauſe many poor Men to faſt on *Sundays* for want of Meat, and ſuch as have no Shooes to go barefoot: But yet Aſtrology is not ſo certain but it may fail; and therefore many Hoſteſſes, if they be not the more wary, ſhall

chalk more this Year than their Guests wipe off in Seven; so that I conclude, whatsoever is said by Art, *Sapiens dominabitur Astris.*

Of Man's Inclinations and Dispositions for the whole Year, and first of the Winter, so far as by Art I can Conjecture.

WHatever *Ptolomy* says, it matters not, for I say it begins sooner with poor men than with rich; because of the malignant Influence of *Saturn*, whose Malevolent Nature is such, that those who have neither Cloths, Money, nor Credit, shall not want only Meat and Drink, but also Wood and Coals, and be ready to starve with Cold, whilst rich men may sit by a good Fire, and enjoy themselves with Apples and Ale, or whatever else they think fit; but in regard I find two of the Seven Planets in *Capricorn*, *viz.* the Winter-Sign, *Sol* in *Pisces*, and *Mars* in *Aquarius*; it doth certainly signifie, that many Men and Women, for want of Wine and strong Drink shall go sober to bed sore against their wills; and also that Sea-men shall have very ill luck if their Ships strike against Rocks, or stick in the Sands. Likewise *Saturn* being Retrograde in *Leo*, shews, that many rich men may lose their Purses by High-way-men, and the Poor be Weather-beaten by Usury and Extortion: But *Mercury* and *Venus* being congregated in *Sagittary*, shews, that they that have no Shirts, in time will be Lowsie. Eels in all probability will be dear, if there be but few taken, but Powts will be plentiful in all Places; especially in those Cities and Countries where Women cannot have their wills; and maundring-broth scolding hot, although it be cold weather. But as far as can be ghess'd by the Configurations of the Stars and their Significations, there is nothing more plain, than that those who have no Fire in the Winter-Season may chance to feel the cold.

Of the Spring.

THIS Quarter is naturally hot and moist, which shews the sprouting out of Trees, Herbs, and Weeds also; it likewise sheweth old men to be testy and froward, and that cunning Knaves need no Brokers; and according to *Preclus*'s Opinion, Women are like to grow wilful,

wilful, yet their Husbands must be content; and Butchers will sell their Meat as dear as they can; many keep their Sheeps-heads so long, that at last they are forced to throw them away, though their Wives preserve their Horns; and some men shall be so wedded to Swines-flesh, that they shall never be without a Sow in their House as long as they live. But wo to the Generation of wicked Ostlers, worse Vermin than any, who rob poor Horses, and greace their Teeth that they cannot eat their Meat when they stand at Livery; by all the foregoing Configurations and Celestial Signs, this I prognosticate against you, that he that dyes amongst you dyes a Thief, and he that lives, lives a Knave, but he that does not leave his cheating tricks shall surely dye a Beggar. I must not hide this notable Secret, that *Jupiter* being in Aspect with *Luna*, discovereth, that in warm weather many shall drink more than they bleed, and Taylors steal nothing but what is brought to them. Poulterers shall be much pestered with stinking Fowl and Coneys, to the annoyance of their Neighbours, and their own disprofit. Butchers Dogs hate Lent, and some Apprentices that have hard Masters will be much troubled with the Shoulders-ake, especially when *Sol* enters *Gemini*. Millers and Weavers shall be as thievish as ever, and Lawyers and Physicians no Changelings. There will certainly be many Scolds at *Billingsgate*, and as many well qualified Men at the *Bear-Garden*.

Of Eclipses happening this Year.

IF we may give credit to the Authentical Censures of *Albumazer* and *Ptolomy* about the motions of the Celestial Bodies, whose Influence does excite and procure continual Mutations in the lower Region; we shall find that the Moon will be eclipsed this Year, which shall happen in one of the twelve Months, and in one of the four Quarters; whose Points, as they shall be totally darkned, so the Effects shall be the more wonderful; for *Cancer* being a watry Sign, and the sole House of the Moon; doth prefage, that Brewers shall make havock of *Thames*-water, and put a double quantity of Liquor to their Malt, to the great detriment of many crazy Ale-knights, and if it be not well look'd into,

into and prevented by the Worſhipful Company of Ale-cunners, may in time prove their fatal overthrow: but in this we have great hopes, that becauſe the Effect cannot ſurpaſs the Cauſe, divers Tapſters ſhall Truſt out more than they can get in, though they fill their Pots but half full; yet for want of true dealing ſhall dye indebted to the Brewer, to his great grief, and but ſmall Satisfaction. Thus much of the watry Sign *Cancer*, only I do adviſe Sea-men to carry two Shirts with them on Ship-board, for fear of ſix legged Animals, which they muſt be forc'd to hunt and murther to ſave their own Skins whole.

Of the Eclipſe of the Sun.

THE Eclipſe of the Sun, according to *Proclus*'s Opinion, is like to produce many hot and peſtilential Infirmities, eſpecially amongſt Somners, Pettifoggers, Bailiffs and their followers, and other ſuch like Vermin, whoſe Faces being combuſt, firy, deathful, and enflamed with the juyce of Barley; if a violent Death do not take away theſe conſuming Malt-worms, Barley will be very dear. Others ſhall be troubled with hot Rheums in their Heads, with ſtrange Fevers and other Calamities, that if the Sun were not plac'd in a cold Sign, the price of Wine would ſoon be raiſed: and *Mars* being placed near the Sun, ſhews, that many ſhall dye this Summer, old Men and Women, when they can live no longer; and ſome alſo that might live longer, if the Hangman did not put a period to their Maladies. Souldiers beyond Sea ſhall be ſo hot-headed as to quarrel for their Pay, mutiny, and kill one another; but here People ſhall quarrel, the Lawyers get their Money, and laugh at them for Fools, and thoſe that quarrel moſt ſhall have the Attorneys bleſſing.

But whereas the Sun is darkned but by Digits, and that upon the South points, it preſageth great Miſery in *Spain* and thoſe Southern Countries, for there will be ſuch an abundance of Fleas, that the Women will ſit up till Midnight and longer, to do Execution upon that black crue of light-heel'd Creatures, and commit Murders upon them, worſe than the Men once did on the *Moors* in the *Weſt-Indies*, without any remorſe.

Now

Now an Eclipſe falling out in the Afternoon, preſages, that Men ſhall go ſoberer into the Taverns than they ſhall come out; and thoſe that are drunk and ſleep on the cold ground, need not much fear to dye then in a Sweat. If the Beadles be careful this Year, it may be hoped that Thieving-lane may be cleanſed from evil fairies, and that honeſt Women may live quietly without fearing Whip or Cart. Farther, it is to be noted, many ſtrange Children ſhall be born, who ſhall live ſo ſtrangely, that when they come to be Biſhop't they will not have wit enough to know their own Fathers; but from ſympathizing, ſhall have their Fingers like Lime-twiggs, that all things they touch follows them, and ſo they get their living by five and a reach, but in the end they come to dye upon a Fiſh-day: Others ſhall have feet like Hares, and ſhall trudge from Poſt to Pillar, till they take up Beggars-buſh for their Head-quarters. Much more might be ſaid, but I end thus; deſiring them that have good Cloths to wear them, and thoſe that have good Victuals to eat, and thoſe that have Money to take their eaſe and be quiet, and not meddle or make, but live till they dye.

Of Comets in General.

IT has been the long received Opinion of all the famous Aſtrologers, that Comets do always portend, to ſome Nations or Places in the World, where the Influences ſhall happen, War, Fire, Famine, Peſtilence, Tumults, Inſurrections, Invaſions, Inundations, or whatever elſe they pleaſe to imagine; but I ſay, ſo far as by Art I lawfully may, That many People, if they do not leave drinking and live temperately, ſhall have wonderful ruby-faces, and great red Noſes, which ſhall ſhine ſo powerfully, that in a dark Night, if their Eyes be good, they may ſerve inſtead of a Link to light them Home, and be as neceſſary as Touch-wood in their Pockets to light their Tobacco: and many People that have great ſtore of Wood and Coals, may if they pleaſe keep good Fires at *Chriſtmas*; but thoſe that frequent *Salisbury-Court*, *Lukenors-Lane*, *Dog-yard*, and ſuch like Places, by reaſon of the exceſſive heat of the Climate, ſhall carry Fire in their Tails, to the deſtruction of their whole Bodies, if they do not in time call for the aſſiſtance of an able Chyrurgeon.

Of

Of Conjunctions.

BUT ſince we are now fallen under the Effects of the moſt famous and remarkable Conjunctions of the Superior Planets that have happned many hundred years, we may well expect moſt wonderful Events in many places, not only of *Europe*, but elſewhere; for many ſingle People of both Sexes ſhall be mightily deſirous to be in Conjunction, and marry in haſte, but may repent at leiſure: Alſo thoſe that are purblind or Moon-ey'd, will hardly ever look right forwards; and thoſe that cannot hold their water will be ſubject to piſs in bed; thoſe that ſwear ſhall catch no Fiſh, and they that angle in dirty Ditches may happily catch Frogs; thoſe that have no Money need not fear robbing, but they that can get no Cloaths may certainly go naked, as well as thoſe that hope for dead Folks ſhooes go barefoot.

I do farther prognoſticate from the various Configurations at the time of writing theſe Predictions, that there ſhall reign a cruel Diſeaſe in poor mens purſes, but it ſhall be with Emptyneſs; inſomuch that ſome ſhall be ready to cut out their Pockets, greatly fearing they may never have more occcaſion to uſe them. Thoſe that have taken great cold may be troubled with a Cough, and thoſe that are ſick will have worſe Stomachs than thoſe that are well, although neither the one nor the other can digeſt a Ten-penny Nail, or a Bag of Tenter-hooks, though never ſo well butter'd. But to conclude my this years Obſervations, I will certainly aſſure you, that a Cup of good Ale and a Toſt, with a piece of Old Cheeſe, and a good Fire, and ſometimes a Plaiſter of warm-guts, is far better than to freeze with cold: that a piece of powder'd Beef and a bag Pudding is very hearty, and Plum-pottage, Roſt-beef, Minc'd-pyes, Turkeys, Geeſe, Capons, and ſuch like good Cheer, with a glaſs of good Wine, is far better to end the year withal, than a thump on the Back with a Stone.

FINIS.

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